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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

SS-173

April 17, 1957

## Better Crop Prospects

Crop prospects made important gains during the past month....especially in the Great Plains, where dry fields got long hoped for rains and snow. Heavy snow in the Rockies also brightened irrigation prospects in the Central West.

For winter wheat, general gains in growth and outcome are expected, although long awaited moisture came too late for some dead or blown-out seedings in drought areas...improvement in many Great Plains fields...crop in California and Pacific Northwest has made a fine start...condition from Missouri eastward is generally good, said Crop Reporting Board as of April 1.

### Winter Wheat Prospects Up 7%--9% Smaller Than Last Year's Crop

Winter wheat on April 1 was forecast at 669 million bushels. This is a gain of 7 percent since December 1 but would be down 9 percent from the 1956 crop and the smallest crop of winter wheat since 1951.

This year's indicated yield, at 18.2 bushels per seeded acre, would be the same as 1947 which is the second highest of record and would compare with 16.5 in 1956 and the average of 15.9 bushels.

### Less Wheat Abandoned Than Year Ago

Total abandonment and diversion of winter wheat to uses other than grain is indicated at 6.3 million acres, about 17 percent of the acreage seeded for all purposes. Last year 8.9 million acres or about 20 percent of the acreage seeded was lost or diverted. Abandonment will be heavy in the panhandle area of Oklahoma and Texas, southeast Colorado and western Kansas, as moisture came too late to save much of the seeded acreage.

### Smaller Wheat Stocks on Farms

The 166 million bushels of wheat remaining on farms April 1 are 23 percent smaller than a year earlier and about 26 percent below average. Slightly less than half of the farm stored wheat was under Government loan April 1 compared with two-thirds same date last year.

### Other Stocks on Farms, April 1

Corn stocks, estimated at 1.6 billion bushels, are 8 percent larger than a year earlier and 22 percent above average for April 1. Except for 1949 stocks are highest for April 1 of record.

Oats stocks of 410 million bushels are the smallest for April 1 since 1948. They are 28 percent less than a year earlier and 17 percent smaller than average.

Barley stocks at 104 million bushels are nearly 11 percent smaller than on April 1, 1956, but larger than average by 29 percent.

Rye stocks of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million bushels are down from a year ago by almost 59 percent but are 10 percent larger than average.

Flaxseed stocks totaled slightly over 17 million bushels, largest since 1948. Stocks are more than double a year earlier and 83 percent above average.

Soybean farm stocks, at 116 million bushels are the largest for April 1 of record--almost double those of last year and well over twice the average stocks.

Sorghum grain stocks on farms are estimated at 27 million bushels (no comparable data for past years). About 17 percent of the April 1 stocks on farms were under CCC farm loan or purchase agreement.

## Rye Condition Improved

The condition of rye, reported at 84 percent of normal on April 1, is 2 points above a year ago but 2 points below average. The current condition is 6 points above that reported last December 1 as crop prospects improved in all except 4 of the rye producing States.

## Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Feb. 15 1957	Mar. 15 1957	Mar. 15 1957
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	30.16	29.80	36.93
Wheat (bu.)..... dol.	2.07	2.07	2.50
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.81	4.92	5.75
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.19	1.20	1.81
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	11.1	11.2	13.6
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	59.0	58.7	73.8
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.34	<sup>1</sup> 4.19	4.81
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	<sup>2</sup> 47.5	<sup>2</sup> 48.7	65.2
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	1.03	1.03	1.36
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	58.60	60.60	71.70
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	2.95	2.89	4.54
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	22.50	21.60	24.80
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.728	.720	.873
Potatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	1.41	1.33	2.45
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	1.15	1.16	1.67
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	2.09	2.07	2.65
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.25	2.26	3.01
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	4.73	4.74	5.22
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	1.75	1.92	2.57
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)..... dol.	3.26	3.38	2.88
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	14.90	16.00	22.40
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	17.30	17.60	24.60
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	16.30	16.80	21.80
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	18.40	19.80	24.80
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	18.4	18.8	28.5
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	32.8	30.6	47.8

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

### Favorable Peach Prospects

Peach prospects on April 1 were the best in 4 years. Condition for major producing Southern States of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Arkansas is well above average...very promising compared with last year's crop and the almost total failure, caused by a late March freeze, in 1955.

### Fewer Spring Vegetables

Production of early and mid-spring vegetables is expected to be 10 percent less than in 1956, though well above average. Smaller crops of tomatoes, onions and sweet corn. Somewhat lighter production also of broccoli, cabbage and green peas. Increases are expected for lettuce, cauliflower, asparagus, cucumbers and snap beans.

### Smaller Production of Grapefruit

The estimated 42.6 million boxes of grapefruit is 6 percent less than last year's production and 12 percent below average. About 9.6 million boxes remained for harvest on April 1, compared with 12.7 million same date last year.

### Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Feb. 1956	Jan.-Feb. 1957
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk .....	Bil. lb.	130.1	130.1
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	335	332
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	244	243
Butter, creamery.....	Mil. lb.	227	226
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	131	137
Ice cream .....	Mil. gal.	85.9	86.4
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs .....	Billions	116.1	116.3
Poultry meat <sup>2</sup> .....	Mil. lb.	547	622
Canned poultry .....	Mil. lb.	33.3	33.6
Liquid egg .....	Mil. lb.	44.2	57.2
Dried egg (egg solids) .....	Mil. lb.	2.1	4.5
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	32.8	34.2
Chicks hatched-Total <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1 631	1 584
Chicks hatched-Broiler <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1 358	1 379
Poults hatched <sup>3</sup> :			
Heavy breeds .....	Millions	1 18.2	1 20.6
Light breeds .....	Millions	1 2.7	1 2.9
<u>Meat Production</u> <sup>2</sup> (dressed weight)			
Beef .....	Mil. lb.	2,316	2,405
Veal .....	Mil. lb.	223	234
Pork .....	Mil. lb.	1,993	1,691
Lamb and mutton .....	Mil. lb.	136	132
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	4,668	4,462
<u>Slaughter</u> <sup>2</sup>			
Cattle .....	1,000 head	4,254	4,472
Calves.....	1,000 head	1,914	1,978
Hogs .....	1,000 head	15,177	12,875
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	2,810	2,710

<sup>1</sup> January-March

<sup>3</sup> By commercial hatcheries.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

### More Oranges Than Last Year

Orange crop (including tangerines) this season is estimated at 139 million boxes, 1 percent above the 137 million boxes a year ago and 17 percent more than the 10-year average of 119 million boxes. About 61.0 million boxes remained to be picked on April 1, compared with 61.3 million year earlier. This includes 22 million boxes of California Valencias which will be harvested mostly in the coming summer and fall. Total estimate includes 71.0 million boxes Early and Midseason, 63.2 million boxes of Valencias and 4.8 million boxes of tangerines, latter practically all harvested.

### Large Output of Potatoes

Winter potato production this year in Florida and California, at 6,445,000 hundredweight, will be about 23 percent above last year and 81 percent above average. Early spring potatoes, fore-

### Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1956		1957	
	Mar.	Yr.	Jan.	Feb.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) <sup>1</sup> .....	57.4	58.4	57.6	68.0
Farm employment .....	6.6	7.9	5.4	5.6
Family .....	5.4	6.0	4.5	4.6
Hired .....	1.3	1.9	.9	1.0
Index number (1947-49 = 100)				
Industrial production <sup>2</sup> .....	141	143	146	146
Total personal income payments <sup>3</sup> .....	158	161	166	167
Weekly factory earnings <sup>4</sup> .....	158	161	165	165
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker <sup>4</sup> .....	149	151	156	156
Wholesale prices, all commodities <sup>4</sup> .....	113	114	117	117
Farm commodities .....	87	88	89	89
Food, processed .....	99	102	104	104
Consumer price index <sup>4</sup> .....	115	116	118	119
Food.....	109	112	113	114
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers .....	228	236	238	234
Crops .....	236	242	239	233
Food grains.....	223	224	236	235
Feed grains and hay.....	174	185	187	181
Cotton.....	267	268	256	255
Tobacco .....	453	453	457	458
Oil bearing crops .....	245	250	266	260
Fruit .....	211	225	227	221
Vegetables for fresh market.....	258	254	249	225
Livestock and products .....	221	230	237	234
Meat animals .....	221	238	254	249
Dairy products .....	250	259	269	266
Poultry and eggs .....	187	177	155	157
Prices paid by farmers:				
All commodities .....	261	264	269	271
Used in living .....	274	278	283	284
Used in production .....	246	249	255	256
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index) .....	281	286	292	294
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted ....				
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index) .....	81	83	82	80

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of the Census.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Reserve Board.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics.



cast at 4,314,000 cwt., will be up from last year by 7 percent and will top average by 39 per cent. Acreage for harvest in the late spring States is placed at 173,900 acres, 5 percent above the 165,900 acres harvested in 1956 and 14 percent less than the 7-year average of 201,700 acres.

### Pastures Off to Good Start

The spring grazing season got off to the best start in the past 3 years. Pasture feed condition for the country as a whole averaged 76 percent of normal, the highest April 1 condition since 1953. Drought in much of the Central and Southern Great Plains has been eased and pasture feed prospects have improved considerably.

### Milk Output About Steady (Per Capita)

The 10,961 million pounds of milk produced on farms in March topped the previous record high of March last year by nearly 1 percent and the 1946-55 average by 12 percent. Production was 2.08 pounds for each person per day. This was down from a year earlier by 1 percent, but was slightly above the 10-year average.

Production for the first quarter totaled 30.1 billion pounds, about the same as a year earlier.

### Egg Production Up a Little

The 5,902 million eggs laid in March exceeded last year's March production by 2 percent. Increases from last year were 5 percent in the West North Central States, 4 percent in the South Atlantic, and 2 percent in the North Atlantic and Western States. There was a 1-percent decrease in the South Central States; no change in the East North Central. Production January through March totaled 16,293 million eggs, topping a year earlier by about 1 percent.

Rate per layer in March was 18.6, compared with 18.3 in March 1956; 10-year average for the month 17.5 eggs.

### More Layers Than Last Year

Number of layers on April 1 totaled about 311 million birds, compared with 309 million last year. The disappearance of layers from March 1 to April 1 was 11 million, compared with 11.5 last year, and the average of 15 million.

### Egg and Poultry Prices Down From Last Year

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-March averaged 30.6 cents a dozen compared with 39.6 cents on March 15 last year and 32.8 cents last month. Chickens brought an average of 18.8 cents a pound live weight (farm chickens and commercial broilers) in mid-March, compared with 21.6 cents a year earlier and 18.4 cents last month. Farmers' turkey prices averaged 26.0 cents per pound live weight, compared with 32.1 cents a year earlier and 27.3 cents in mid-February.

### Feeding Less Favorable

Farm poultry ration, mid-March, cost an average of \$3.55 per 100 pounds; \$3.42, year earlier. The egg-feed, farm chicken-feed, turkey-

feed and broiler-feed ratios were all less favorable than a year earlier.

### Farm Worker Downtrend Continues; Wages Higher

The 6.4 million persons (family workers and hired) at work on farms in late March compare

### CURRENT ESTIMATES

#### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, February 1957<sup>1</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	7,733	7,276	15,009
New Hampshire.....	4,277	794	5,071
Vermont.....	7,533	673	8,206
Massachusetts.....	8,952	3,018	11,970
Rhode Island.....	1,071	414	1,485
Connecticut.....	7,874	3,904	11,778
New York.....	43,021	15,190	58,211
New Jersey.....	13,949	4,495	18,444
Pennsylvania.....	43,849	12,779	56,628
North Atlantic.....	138,259	48,543	186,802
Ohio.....	48,596	19,529	68,125
Indiana.....	55,573	32,027	87,600
Illinois.....	82,149	95,654	177,803
Michigan.....	29,769	20,661	50,430
Wisconsin.....	79,426	8,756	88,182
East North Central.....	295,513	176,627	472,140
Minnesota.....	74,346	46,428	120,774
Iowa.....	137,267	48,843	186,110
Missouri.....	43,878	10,815	54,693
North Dakota.....	8,617	24,726	33,343
South Dakota.....	24,595	7,821	32,416
Nebraska.....	55,073	19,776	74,849
Kansas.....	33,530	21,184	54,714
West North Central.....	377,306	179,593	556,899
Delaware.....	7,078	1,107	8,185
Maryland.....	10,654	3,749	14,403
Virginia.....	15,768	8,113	23,881
West Virginia.....	5,183	900	6,083
North Carolina.....	19,286	8,797	28,083
South Carolina.....	6,680	4,593	11,273
Georgia.....	26,433	12,960	39,393
Florida.....	11,038	46,057	57,095
South Atlantic.....	102,120	86,276	188,396
Kentucky.....	16,837	6,804	23,641
Tennessee.....	15,782	10,008	25,790
Alabama.....	16,421	10,954	27,375
Mississippi.....	12,489	24,584	37,073
Arkansas.....	11,847	19,655	31,502
Louisiana.....	9,428	10,268	19,696
Oklahoma.....	19,784	6,682	26,466
Texas.....	55,511	45,205	100,716
South Central.....	158,099	134,160	292,259
Montana.....	10,398	9,933	20,331
Idaho.....	10,421	11,107	21,528
Wyoming.....	3,103	1,246	4,349
Colorado.....	17,803	5,129	22,932
New Mexico.....	4,473	5,972	10,445
Arizona.....	7,361	10,240	17,601
Utah.....	7,846	1,553	9,399
Nevada.....	2,450	693	3,143
Washington.....	14,052	25,703	39,755
Oregon.....	11,855	14,367	26,222
California.....	65,382	63,752	129,134
Western.....	155,144	149,695	304,839
United States.....	1,226,441	774,894	2,001,335

<sup>1</sup> All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

with 6.6 million a year earlier, and the downtrend continues. There was a seasonal increase, however, from February to March of about 767,000 workers. Wage rates for hired workers around April 1 were about 4 percent higher than a year ago.

### Cash Receipts from Farming, United States <sup>1</sup>

Source	Feb. 1957	Mar. <sup>2</sup> 1957
Farm marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	2,001	1,900
Livestock and products .....	1,226	1,300
Meat animals .....	633	
Dairy products .....	361	
Poultry and eggs .....	209	
Other .....	23	
	775	600
Crops .....	97	
Food grains .....	240	
Feed crops .....	108	
Cotton (lint and seed) .....	80	
Oil-bearing crops .....	17	
Tobacco .....	90	
Vegetables .....	69	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	74	
Other .....	31	
Government payments .....		
Total cash receipts .....	2,032	

<sup>1</sup>For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup>Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

### Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1956 average .....	\$ 976	\$ 390	\$ 586	40 %
1956-Feb.....	946	366	580	39
1957-Jan. ....	984	391	593	40
1957-Feb.....	993	382	611	38

<sup>1</sup> Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing. For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.